

Montana State Library

This cover sheet created by Internet Archive for formatting.

MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 252

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

MAY, 1964

April Employment Expansion Makes 4,700 More Jobs

Spring Job Shape Up Starts—The seasonal employment upswing made a good showing during April despite bad weather throughout much of the month and a short labor dispute which idled over 5,000 mine and smelter workers in the Butte and Anaconda areas for two weeks.

Employment estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that 4,700 non-farm workers were added to payrolls of industry and commerce during April. This brought the non-farm employment total to 169,300 wage earners. This was 2,300 short of the April, 1963 employment total but it compares with a time when Minuteman Missile activity in the Great Falls area had a payroll of over 2,000 workers.

Good Gains In Most Groups—All but one of the state's eight basic non-farm industry groups recorded employment advances between March and April this year. Construction led the field with a gain of 2,400. Trade establishments, responding to the stimulus of the spring buying season, added 1,200 workers. Other employment gains from March occurred in government, up 600; the service industries, up 200; employment in mining, transportation, utilities and communications, and in finance insurance and real estate firms each posted gains of 100 each. Employment in manufacturing industries, at 20,500, showed no change from the March level.

April '64 vs. April '63—The employment comparison with April, 1963 shows mixed trends. Three industries had more workers on their payrolls this year, one showed no change, and four others had fewer workers this year. A drop of 1,400 in construction can be related directly to completed missile activity in the Great Falls area. Another contributing factor was the bad weather this year which delayed worker expansion on many projects. Employment in trade industries receded by 600. All of the 1,100 drop in manufacturing is also tied to the completed missile projects. The transportation group showed a drop of 200. Government payrolls were 800 above last April, Mining, and finance, insurance and real estate segments, advanced by 100 each from April, 1963.

Farm Front Active—Farm activity was up in most areas despite wet weather which delayed land preparation and planting operations. Job orders for livestock care, irrigation activities, and general maintenance work ran into shortages of qualified workers in a few areas. The demand for qualified farm and ranch hands will accelerate in the coming months as the work season advances.

Mining and Smelting Up—Employment in mining and smelting exhibits optimistic trends after the recent labor dispute. Payroll additions at smelters in Anaconda and Great Falls continue

weekly. Workers for Butte's mining operations are being recruited from the idled coal miners in the Appalachia region.

More Steam Ahead—Barring more bad weather or unforeseen labor disputes, employment is set to take a big leap forward in the next three months. A peak of 180,000 or more in the non-farm employment total is expected under favorable conditions. The best employment advances are expected to be in construction, manufacturing, and the trade and service segments. More moderate gains should be posted in mining, government and in oil field oriented activities.

Jobseeker Count Declines—The count of registered unemployed workers dropped by about 3,000 from March to April but was 1,600 above April last year. The majority of the increase over last year are workers in outdoor classifications such as logging, construction and agriculture who were kept from returning to work by bad weather.

Bad Weather Keeps UCC Claims Up—The volume of unemployment claims continued to remain higher than last year. The average number of unemployment claims filed weekly during April this year numbered 10,900, compared with a weekly average of 7,600 during April, 1963. The higher totals this year show clearly the adverse affects of bad weather on employment directions in Montana.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES
(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Mar. 1964	2) Feb. 1964	Mar. 1963	Mar. 1964	Feb. 1964	Mar. 1963	Mar. 1964	Feb. 1964	Mar. 1963	Mar. 1964	Feb. 1964	Mar. 1963	Mar. 1964	Feb. 1964	Mar. 1963
3) All Manufacturing.....	4.0	3.3	3.9	2.8	2.5	2.5	3.4	3.5	3.9	1.7	1.4	1.9	.5	1.0	1.4
Durable Goods.....	5.3	4.3	4.5	3.4	3.1	2.8	4.2	4.5	4.6	2.2	1.6	1.9	.4	1.3	2.0
Primary Metal.....	6.9	4.5	4.0	2.9	2.3	1.3	5.1	5.2	2.7	1.7	.9	1.1	*	.6	.7
3) Nondurable Goods.....	1.6	1.4	2.7	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.5	2.3	.8	.9	1.9	.7	.4	.1
All Mining.....	7.3	6.1	9.9	4.2	3.2	4.1	5.6	6.0	9.0	2.8	1.8	4.6	.6	2.0	3.0
Metal Mining.....	6.9	7.3	5.8	3.5	3.5	2.0	5.7	3.9	7.6	3.0	2.0	4.1	*	.2	1.4

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures revised on more complete returns. 3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations. * Less than .05.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary April 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(342 jobseekers, 45 new, 242 men, 100 women). Railroad labor dispute which caused smelter shutdown practically stopped all employment activity the first two weeks in April. Unemployment claims took a big temporary jump with initial claims 1,216 above April last year. All smeltermen now back at work. Some construction craftsmen idled by completed projects have not yet found other work.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,006 jobseekers, 643 new, 2,141 men, 865 women). Employment directions in both farm and industry showed good seasonal advances during April. Construction should reach a near all time high as the season progresses. Yellowtail Dam employment, now at 1,000, should reach nearly 1,300. About 800 will be employed on various highway projects in the area. Trade and service establishments expanding work forces to meet increased summer business. Some oil field hiring noted in the Roundup and Lodge Grass areas. Brisk farm labor demand will continue throughout the summer season.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(454 jobseekers, 270 new, 308 men, 146 women). Industry job placements increased by 11% from March but showed a 5% drop from April of last year due largely to bad weather this season. Good upturn noted in farm hiring but bad weather and worker shortages left some jobs unfilled. Good upswing in construction employment seen for May. Little change noted in logging operations. Opening of new sawmill late May will make 12 jobs.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,476 jobseekers, 326 new, 1,018 men, 458 women). Metal mining operations back to normal after the railroad strike which closed all mining operations during early April. Renewed hiring efforts seek miners from the Appalachia region. Good hiring trends for building projects but bad weather still keeps highway projects in suspense.

CUT BANK—(608 jobseekers, 57 new, 493 men, 115 women). Reopening of a lumber mill and construction projects were key factor in April job advance. Main street activity still curbed by hotel and restaurant employees dispute. Farm labor demand quite active despite bad weather.

DILLON—(91 jobseekers, 63 new, 61 men, 33 women). Labor demand in industry and farm started to pick up during April despite some temporary

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Apr. 64	Mar. 64	Apr. 63	Mar. 64 to Apr. 64	Apr. 63 to Apr. 64
Civilian Work Force	252.0	241.1	254.0	10.9	-2.0
Total Employment	238.9	224.5	239.9	14.4	-1.0
Total Non-agricultural Employment	193.5	193.5	199.3	5.0	.8
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	169.3	164.6	171.6	4.7	-2.3
Total Agricultural Employment	40.4	31.0	40.6	9.4	-.2
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	.0	0.0	.2
Total Unemployment	12.9	16.4	14.1	-3.5	-1.2
Percent Unemployed	5.1	6.8	5.5		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	5.9	5.6		

weather caused delays. Good schedule of building and heavy construction projects now in progress. Present brisk farm labor demand to continue the next 30 days.

GLASGOW, Fort Peek, Malta, Opheim—(252 jobseekers, 71 new, 172 men, 80 women). Work on air base projects including 200 housing units and airport runway repair only construction activity at present. Main street volume, especially in service units, dropped as 1,400 air base personnel assigned to temporary duty at another base. Heavy farm labor demand throughout April.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(196 jobseekers, 55 new, 124 men, 72 women). Unsettled weather limited hiring on highway projects and building construction during April. Moderate upturn noted in demand for oil field workers. Demand for trade and service industry workers not yet too promising. Slow farm labor demand with jobs mainly for livestock care and field work.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,488 jobseekers, 541 new, 922 men, 566 women). Labor market trends in most industries remained on the passive side during much of April. Weather conditions were to blame in most instances. Sixty workers added to smelter payrolls during the month. Trends in trade, service, and construction not too sharp. Some farm work delayed by wet weather.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(338 jobseekers, 79 new, 259 men, 79 women). Logging, forestry, and construction activities all suffered because of bad weather during April. Most April unemployed were in logging and construction classifications. Trade, service, and private households provided most April job orders. Much farm work postponed until May.

HAYRE, Chinook, Harlem—(305 jobseekers, 64 new, 233 men, 67 women). Farm labor demand dominated April

hiring activity with job placements above last month and last year. Industry job placements did not fare as well. Construction volume below last year with most major projects now completed with no new work in sight. Moderate upswing expected soon in trade and service.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(412 jobseekers, 166 new, 272 men, 140 women). April labor demand below average in all but clerical and service industry occupations. Unsettled weather and slow trends in trade activities largely responsible for this letdown. Preliminary work started on \$1 million shopping plaza to include 25 trade and service units. Good farm labor demand with worker supply adequate at present.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,909 jobseekers, 282 new, 1,604 men, 305 women). Brisk hiring in construction set the labor market pace during April. Expansion at the Columbia Falls aluminum plant made 300 jobs during March. Sixty workers were employed on other area building projects. Logging may not return to normal until June 1st due to severity of spring breakup. Hiring at lumber mills down from last year.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(259 jobseekers, 77 new, 186 men, 73 women). Labor market activity in industry and farm holding fairly close to seasonal lines. Farm hiring exceeds last year but industry labor demand shows 26% drop due to less construction work this year. Small crews employed mostly on residential building units.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(243 jobseekers, 79 new, 156 men, 92 women). Good economic outlook forecast for tourist oriented business during Montana's Centennial year. Hiring of workers for Yellowstone Park quickens as tourist season approaches. Highway projects employ most construction workers. Logging still shut down with

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.5	154.1	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.5	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	179.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8	
1958	163.1	159.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	151.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	151.3	150.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	179.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	171.6	176.0	183.3	182.7	182.2	181.6	178.9	174.9	171.2	174.5
1964	165.3	161.5	161.6	169.3*									

*Provisional Estimate

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary April 1

sawmills using minimum crews on reduced work schedules.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(235 jobseekers, 83 new, 181 men, 54 women). Employment directions starting to look up after several months of lethargy. Construction fairly active despite absence of major projects. Some railroad hiring also noted. Late spring cut down on farm labor demand.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,617 jobseekers, 445 new, 1,200 men, 417 women). Employment upswing in trade and manufacturing firms were brighter aspects of the April labor market. Hiring by service industries followed close behind. The deficit side reflected the annual slump in logging. Log supplies running short at some mills. Planting of farm crops several weeks late.

POLSON—(311 jobseekers, 58 new, 253 men, 58 women). Economic conditions show some improvement over last year with job hires up moderately. Some logging operations expected to resume by mid-May. Log shortages forced closure of one mill idling 15. Good labor demand for farm couples.

SHELBY—(188 jobseekers, 75 new, 131 men, 57 women). Labor market activity showed little change from last month and down 58% from last year. Lack of moisture in area causing serious concern to farm economy. Construction and oil field work not too active.

SIDNEY—(142 jobseekers, 59 new, 98 men, 44 women). Good labor demand existed throughout April despite some bad weather. Shortages of some building craftsmen as work begins on several new major building contracts. More upturn expected in oil field activity next few months. Cold, wet weather delayed spring planting operations.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(269 jobseekers, 70 new, 235 men, 34 women). April labor market trends show some improvement from March. Farm hiring up seasonally. Construction work interrupted by bad weather during much of the month. Logging still down but worker recalls expected during May. Most mills on steady schedules.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(156 jobseekers, 54 new, 118 men, 38 women). Employment upswing occurred in construction, oil fields, trade, and service industries during April. Construction payrolls added 100 workers during the month. Three oil drilling rigs active. Opening of drive-ins and more hiring in cafes, hotels, and farm implement firms made jobs for trade and service industry workers.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 792 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,273 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Apr. 1964 (2)	Mar. 1964 (3)	Apr. 1963	Mar. '64 to Apr. '64	Apr. '63 to Apr. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	169,300	164,600	171,600	4,700	-2,300
Manufacturing	20,500	20,500	21,600	00	-1,100
Durable goods	13,100	13,100	14,200	00	-1,100
Lumber and timber products	8,300	8,400	7,400	- 100	900
Primary metals	3,300	3,200	3,200	100	100
Other (4)	1,500	1,500	3,600	00	-2,100
Nondurable goods	7,400	7,400	7,400	00	00
Food and kindred products	3,900	3,900	3,900	00	00
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,300	00	- 100
Other (5)	700	700	600	00	100
Mining	7,200	7,100	7,100	100	100
Metal mining	4,700	4,700	4,100	00	600
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	800	800	900	00	- 100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,700	1,600	2,100	100	- 400
Contract Construction	11,400	9,000	12,800	2,400	-1,400
Contractors, building construction	2,800	2,300	4,300	500	-1,500
Contractors, other than building	4,200	2,700	4,200	1,500	00
Contractors, special trade	4,400	4,000	4,300	400	100
Transportation and utilities	17,000	16,900	17,200	100	- 200
Interstate railroads	7,600	7,500	7,700	100	- 100
Transportation except railroads	3,700	3,700	3,800	00	- 100
Utilities including communication	5,700	5,700	5,700	00	00
Trade	39,600	38,400	40,200	1,200	- 600
Wholesale trade	8,500	8,500	8,600	00	- 100
Retail trade	31,100	29,900	31,600	1,200	- 500
General merchandise and apparel	6,000	5,900	5,900	100	100
Food stores	4,600	4,500	5,000	100	- 400
Eating and drinking establishments	8,100	7,300	8,100	800	00
Automotive and filling stations	6,300	6,200	6,600	100	- 300
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,100	6,000	6,000	100	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,700	6,700	100	100
Services and miscellaneous	23,300	23,100	23,300	200	00
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,200	3,200	2,900	00	300
Personal services	2,000	2,000	2,100	00	- 100
Other (6)	18,100	17,900	18,300	200	- 200
Government	43,500	42,900	42,700	600	800
Federal	11,500	11,100	11,900	400	- 400
State and local	32,000	31,800	30,800	200	1,200
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	21,500	21,100	24,300	400	-2,800
Manufacturing	3,100	3,000	5,000	100	-1,900
Contract construction	1,800	1,600	2,500	200	- 700
Transportation and utilities	2,000	2,000	2,100	00	- 100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,600	5,500	5,700	100	- 100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,600	3,600	3,700	00	- 100
Government	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	23,200	22,600	23,200	600	00
Manufacturing	2,400	2,400	2,600	00	- 200
Contract construction	1,500	1,300	1,400	200	100
Transportation and utilities	2,500	2,400	2,500	100	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,400	7,300	7,400	100	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,300	1,300	100	100
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,300	4,200	4,300	100	00
Government	3,700	3,700	3,700	00	00

- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

- (7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN APRIL 1964 AND APRIL 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	Apr. 1961		Apr. 1963		Apr. 1961		Apr. 1963		Apr. 1964				Apr. 1963				Wk 5-1	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	45		74	8	342	63	357	49	18	11	29	6	53	12	65	17	258	173
Billings	644	98	960	198	1,006	690	3,022	727	594	326	920	310	579	341	920	268	1,097	1,026
Bozeman	276	36	1,19	47	454	72	301	52	136	77	213	42	143	116	259	46	198	148
Butte	726	81	741	61	1,476	324	713	124	94	31	125	39	128	26	154	40	876	457
Cat Bank	57	15	86	28	608	220	374	106	52	86	138	51	69	73	142	64	266	102
Dillon	68	18	32	17	94	17	108	12	26	169	195	59	37	196	233	83	68	104
Glasgow	71	11	68	7	252	28	330	46	64	77	141	23	64	76	140	21	159	156
Glendive	55	4	62	9	196	14	227	35	60	43	103	20	82	47	129	17	66	58
Great Falls	541	62	894	220	1,488	420	1,783	451	347	156	503	168	301	227	528	126	996	776
Hamilton	79	18	86	12	338	85	248	46	86	37	123	26	72	46	118	24	214	135
Havre	64	5	66	3	705	64	229	38	43	137	180	49	61	127	188	76	190	130
Helena	166	19	184	26	412	102	536	136	166	77	243	93	195	77	272	103	381	324
Kalispell	282	57	277	56	1,909	552	1,452	408	210	17	227	63	196	34	230	57	1,245	905
Lewistown	77	13	79	12	259	60	277	70	40	95	135	36	56	91	147	51	181	158
Livingston	79	4	83	7	248	57	313	53	71	57	128	39	67	42	109	31	166	158
Miles City	83	4	79	12	235	93	183	47	80	91	171	23	71	100	171	22	150	108
Missoula	445	61	346	56	1,617	346	1,172	271	305	134	439	76	218	68	286	75	605	518
Polson	58	4	51	3	311	82	282	58	28	49	77	23	35	32	67	17	206	147
Shelby	75	22	105	34	188	51	213	54	27	116	143	22	46	75	121	32	86	85
Sidney	59	7	47	7	142	21	129	22	66	47	113	13	59	60	119	25	78	37
Thomp. Falls	70	15	66	26	269	72	204	60	26	18	44	8	80	16	96	30	185	105
Wolf Point	54	11	44	13	156	20	189	37	15	64	79	12	20	48	68	15	116	117
TOTALS	3,667	568	4,350	852	14,305	3,433	12,642	2,902	2,554	1,915	4,469	1,201	2,632	1,930	4,562	1,245	7,787	5,927

*Includes 385 claims of the Fed. UC Program 814 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. (1) 1964	Mar. (2) 1964	Apr. 1963	Apr. (1) 1964	Mar. (2) 1964	Apr. 1963	Apr. (1) 1964	Mar. (2) 1964	Apr. 1963
All Manufacturing	\$109.89	\$111.38	\$103.57	40.7	41.1	38.5	2.70	2.71	2.69
Durable Goods	107.07	107.23	100.61	41.5	41.4	33.4	2.58	2.59	2.62
Primary Metals	109.89	107.20	102.82	40.7	40.0	38.8	2.70	2.68	2.65
Nondurable Goods	116.22	119.99	111.64	39.0	40.4	38.9	2.98	2.97	2.87
Food and Kindred Products	100.73	105.00	94.01	39.5	41.5	39.5	2.55	2.53	2.38
All Mining	112.50	113.18	111.24	39.2	39.3	40.6	2.87	2.88	2.74
Metal Mining	112.13	112.13	106.65	38.8	38.8	38.5	2.89	2.89	2.77
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	108.67	106.70	99.85	40.1	38.8	38.7	2.71	2.75	2.58

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
P. O. Box 1728
HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
United States Postage
Accounted for Under
Act of Congress

Montana State Library

This cover sheet created by Internet Archive for formatting.